

Laurel House Happenings

Liz Lyons, Development Coordinator

Summer 2017

Welcome New Staff!

Laurel House is happy to introduce two new members of our staff!

Jess Beers joined the Domestic Abuse Response Team (DART) in late 2016 on a temporary basis and we quickly realized we had to keep her around! Jess is now a permanent member of the staff.

Prior to joining the staff of Laurel House, Jess was a DART volunteer, so she had the unique advantage of knowing the job inside and out prior to taking it on full

time. In her free time, Jess is busy taking care of her daughter, her dog, and teaching fitness and yoga classes.



(L) Jess, (R) Britni

We also welcomed a new Shelter Man-

ager this Spring. Britni Harris has a degree in Social Work from Temple University has an extensive background in human services both in the US and abroad including teaching sign language in Kenya and working in a transitional housing program for victims of domestic violence in Washington D.C. Britni's prior experience helped her transition seamlessly into her new position.

We're excited to welcome Jess and Britni to our team!

Educating Professionals

Laurel House staff members and volunteers provide a variety trainings each year to professionals, including law enforcement, medical professionals, human resources staff, and others to educate them on the implications of domestic violence specific to their interactions with the victim.

In June, Laurel House's Medical Advocacy Coordinator, Ashley Thompson, and Dr. Madeline DiPasquale, clinical psychologist at **Moss Rehab**, presented at the **Brain Injury Association of Pennsylvania's Annual Conference**.

This presentation focuses on the prevalence of traumatic brain injuries in DV victims and the potential long-term difficulties they will face due to

this injury.

Laurel House Director of Counseling, Minna Davis, and colleague, Beth Toler, Assistant Professor of Pastoral Clinical Mental Health Counseling, Neumann University also collaborated on a presentation titled *Domestic Abuse and Faith: Resource or Roadblock*. Most recently, they presented at the **Association for Spiritual, Ethical, and Religious Values in Counseling Conference** in Richmond, VA.



Counselors who attended the workshop learned to more effectively counsel survivors of domestic abuse and enhance their understanding of its consequences from a cultural/faith perspective, and that whether or not survivors of domestic abuse have a strong connection to their culture/faith, their beliefs about forgiveness and acceptance profoundly affect their ability to heal.

One of the pillars of Laurel House's mission is to foster a coordinated response to domestic abuse through education and collaboration. Through these trainings, we can take steps to make sure that every professional a victim comes in contact with can do their part to help them take steps towards a safe life free from abuse.

Thank You Chestnut Hill Hospital!

Lunafest® is a film festival that travels throughout the country each year presenting a collection of short films by, for, and about women. Each year the films touch on a variety of topics including juggling family life and other responsibilities, relationship dynamics, the differences of the female experience in different cultures, and more. Each event is hosted by a local organization and

proceeds go to charities addressing women's issues in the community.

Locally, Chestnut Hill Hospital hosts the film festival at the Ambler Theater each Spring.

We are fortunate that Chestnut Hill Hospital selected Laurel House, as

well as the Breast Cancer Fund, to benefit from the local event.

Over the past four years, Laurel House has received over \$20,000 from this event!

We are honored that Chestnut Hill Hospital selected us and proud to be involved with such an empowering and motivational event.

LUNAFEST
short films by, for, about Women®



Sunday, October 22, 2017
Upper Gwynedd Township Park

Registration is now open at
www.lhdash.kintera.org

Want to help end dating violence?

Laurel House's newly formed **Teen and Young Adult Dating Violence Task Force** is open to any teens/young adults interested in helping end dating/domestic violence. This group works along with Laurel House to help raise awareness through various projects, events, and initiatives in the schools and community at large.

To sign up or for more information, please contact:

Nicole Rinier

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(610) 277-1860
ext 121



Thank you to everyone who supported our request to help us send the children at the shelter to a **Phillies** game!

10 children and their moms enjoyed an evening at the ball park complete with food, drinks, and a trip to the gift shop!